5   CLAIMS

1.   A graphical user interface for use in preparation of an
automatically generated communication in response to an event
requiring generation of a communication, said graphical user
10   interface comprising: means for presenting an image of a list of
at least one selectable operational option; means for accepting
selection of at least one operational option from the list; and
means for presenting an image of said at least one operational
option selected as a chosen option list.

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2.   A graphical user interface, according to claim 1, further
comprising: means for selecting a chosen option from the chosen
option list; and means for accepting return of a selected chosen
option to the list of selectable operational options.

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3.   A graphical user interface, according to claim 1, wherein
said means for presenting an image of a list of at least one
selectable operational option and said means for presenting an
image of said at least one operational option as a chosen option
25   list together comprise a split screen, said split screen having
a first portion and a second portion and being operative to
display said list of said at least one selectable operational
option in said first portion and to display said chosen option
list in said second portion thereof.

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4.   A graphical user interface, according to claim 3, wherein
said split screen has a first side and a second side and said
first portion of said split screen is on said first side and
wherein said second portion of said split screen is on said
35   second side.

5.   A graphical user interface, according to claim 3, wherein said split screen is one of a plurality of split screens.

6. A graphical user interface, according to claim 1, wherein said

5   list of said at least one selectable operational option is presented as a tree structure.

7.   A graphical user interface, according claim 1, wherein said list of said at least one selectable operational option comprises

10   a list of a plurality of different media by which the automatically generated communication can be transmitted; wherein said list of chosen options comprises at least one chosen media for transmission of the automatically generated communication; wherein said graphical user interface comprises means for

15   accepting selection of said at least one chosen media and means for directing the automatically generated communication for transmission on said at least one chosen media selected.

8.   A graphical user interface, according to claim 1, wherein

20   said list of said at least one selectable operational option comprises at least one of: at least one criteria to be fulfilled to cause generation of the automatically generated communication; at least one text item; at least one criteria to be fulfilled to select a text item; and at least one fixed item to be selected.

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9.   A graphical user interface, according to claim 8, comprising conversion means for accepting a criterion definition for each of said at least one criteria and for converting the criterion definition into plain language for display.

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10. A graphical user interface, according to claim 8 wherein said at least one text item comprises items in a plurality of selectable languages.

35   11. A graphical user interface, according to claim 10, wherein said at least one text item comprises items for use in at least one selectable idioms.

12. A graphical user interface, according to claim 11, wherein said at least one text items comprises items for use in at least one selectable media.

5   13. A graphical user interface, according to claim 12, wherein said at least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable place holder for use with at least one media.

14. A graphical user interface, according to claim 13, wherein
10   said at least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable place holder for use in fixing the position of items with at least one media.

15. A graphical user interface, according to claim 14, wherein
15   said at least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable item for use with at least one media.

16. A graphical user interface, according to claim 15, comprising means for testing a specified automatically generated
20   communication by presenting different criteria for generation of an automatically generated communication, and means for altering a specification of the automatically generated communication until a satisfactory automatically generated communications are obtained.
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17. A method for preparing an automatically generated communication in response to an event requiring generation of a communication, the method comprising the steps of: presenting an image of a list of at least one selectable operational option;
30   selecting at least one operational option from the list; accepting said at least one operational option selected; presenting an image of said at least one operational option selected as a chosen option list; and, subsequently generating an automatically generated communication which implements said at
35   least one chosen option listed.

18. A method, according to claim 17, comprising the steps of selecting a chosen option from the chosen option list; and accepting return of the chosen option selected to said list of at least one selectable operational option.

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19. A method, according to claim 18 comprising the steps of providing a split screen with a first portion and a second portion; presenting, simultaneously, an image of a list of said least one selectable operational option in the first portion

10 thereof and an image of said chosen option list in the second portion thereof.

20. A method, according to claim 19, comprising the steps of providing said first portion of said split screen on a first side

15 thereof and providing said second portion of said split screen on a second side thereof.

21. A method, according to claim 20 wherein said split screen is one of a plurality of split screens.

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22. A method, according to claim 20, comprising the step of presenting said list of at said least one selectable operational option as a tree structure.

25 23. A method, according to claim 20, wherein said list of said at least one selectable operational option comprises a list of a plurality of different media by which the automatically generated communication can be transmitted and said list of chosen options comprises at least one chosen medium for transmission of the

30 automatically generated communication; said method comprising the steps of: accepting selection of said at least one chosen medium; and subsequently directing the automatically generated communication for transmission on said at least one chosen medium.

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24. A method, according to claim 20, wherein said list of said at least one selectable operational option comprises at least one

of: at least one criterion to be fulfilled to cause the
generation of the automatically generated communication; at least
one criterion to be fulfilled to select a text item; at least one
text item to be selected; and at least one fixed item to be
5 selected.

25. A method, according to claim 24, comprising the steps of:
accepting a criterion definition for each of said at least one
criterion and converting the criterion definition into plain
10 language for display.

26. A method, according to claim 24 or claim 25, wherein said at
least one text item comprises items in a plurality of selectable
languages.
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27. A method, according to claim 24 or claim 25, wherein said at
least one text item comprises items for at least one selectable
idiom.

20 28. A method, according to claim 24 or claim 25, wherein said at
least one text item comprises items for at least one selectable
media.

29. A method, according to claim 24 or claim 25, wherein said at
25 least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable place
holder for at least one media.

30. A method, according to claim 24 or 25, wherein said at
least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable place
30 holder for fixing the position of items with at least one media.

31. A method, according to claim 24 or 25, wherein said at least
one fixed item comprises at least one selectable item for at
least one media.
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32. A method, according to claim 24 or 25, comprising the steps
of: testing a specified automatically generated communication by

presenting different criteria for generation of an automatically generated communication thereto; and altering the specification of the automatically generated communication until a satisfactory automatically generated communication is obtained.

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34.   A graphical user interface, according to any one of claims 1 to 16, further comprising means to implement the chosen options in subsequent generation of the automatically generated communication.

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34.   A graphical user interface for use in preparation of an automatically generated communication in response to an event requiring generation of a communication, said graphical user interface comprising:

15   means for presenting an image of a list of at least one selectable operational option comprising at least one of: at least one criteria to be fulfilled to cause generation of the automatically generated communication; at least one text item comprising items in a plurality of selectable languages, items

20   for use in at least one selectable idiom and items for use in at least one selectable medium; at least one criteria to be fulfilled to select a text item; and at least one fixed item to be selected comprising at least one selectable place holder for use with at least one medium, at least one selectable place

25   holder for fixing the position of items with at least one medium and at least one selectable item for use with at least one medium;

        conversion means for accepting a criterion definition for each of said at least one criteria and for converting the criterion definition into plain language for display;

30   criterion definition into plain language for display;

        means for accepting selection of an operational option for use;

        means for presenting an image of said at least one operational option selected as a chosen option list.

35   means for selecting a chosen option on the chosen option list;

and means for accepting return of a selected chosen option to the list of selectable operational options, wherein:

said means for presenting an image of a list of at least one selectable operational option and said means for presenting

5   an image of said at least one operational option as a chosen option list together comprise a screen split into a first side and a second side and being operative to display said list of said at least one selectable operational option as a tree structure in said first side and to display said chosen option

10   list in said second side thereof;

said list of said at least one selectable operational option comprises a list of a plurality of different media by which the automatically generated communication can be transmitted;

15   said list of chosen options comprises at least one chosen media for transmission of the automatically generated communication;

said graphical user interface comprises means for accepting selection of said at least one chosen media and means

20   for directing the automatically generated communication for transmission on said at least one chosen media selected.

35. A graphical user interface, according to claim 34, comprising means for testing a specified automatically generated

25   communication by presenting different criteria for generation of an automatically generated communication, and means for altering a specification of the automatically generated communication until a satisfactory automatically generated communications are obtained.

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